



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Spiritual & Religious Life

Student Affairs

Annual Report 2012-2013

The members of the Drexel University Interfaith Council reside on the Second Floor of the James E. Marks Intercultural Center and share the Interfaith Chapel and Lounge spaces for services, fellowship and programming. Administrative support is provided to the Drexel University Interfaith Council by Dr. Rebecca Weidensaul, Associate Dean of Students and Ms. Kia Perkins, Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Dean of Students. Dr. Weidensaul also serves as Coordinator of Spiritual & Religious Life, and responds to inquiries about spiritual/religious life, requests for campus ministers and orchestration of vigils, memorials, ceremonies and other traditional campus events such as Convocation, Interfaith Baccalaureate, and Commencement. Dr. Weidensaul works closely with her colleagues in Campus Activities to provide opportunities for Spiritual and Religious Student Organizations on campus and be available to learn about their mission, goals and needs. In addition, she provides advocacy for religious and spiritual life in the context of higher education and serves as a liaison for students, faculty, professional staff and administration. This past year, Dr. Weidensaul secured funding and worked with campus colleagues and members of the Muslim Student Association to contract with University of Pennsylvania's Muslim Representative Marc Manley. This was the first time that Drexel University was able to hire a Muslim teacher and mentor to assist with worship, education and counseling. Dr. Weidensaul continues to work with MSA to find funding for a Administrative Coordinator; the following professional religious staff members participate on the Interfaith Council and provide pastoral care and support for students, faculty and professional staff at Drexel:

- Reverend Sarah A. Colwill, Director of Asbury Ministry
- Reverend Brian Musser, Baptist Campus Minister, Baptist Campus Ministries
- Rabbi Isabel de Koninck, Director, Hillel at Drexel
- Michael Chovanes, Assistant Director of Newman Catholic Campus Ministry
- Father Jim McGuinn, Director, Newman Catholic Campus Ministry

This year, Members of the Interfaith Council, Student Representatives from Spiritual & Religious Organizations, and Student Affairs professional staff worked with campus partners to host and participate in a number of campus events including: Campus Interfaith Lunch, Baccalaureate, Accepted Students Days, and Orientation Dragon Expos. The campus ministers were also called upon to provide assistance by serving on committees, such as the Veterans Task Force, providing support at Memorial services, offering prayer and comments at various celebratory events including pinning ceremonies and finally as panelists or guest lecturers at the request of faculty members.

Open Door Christian Community (formerly Asbury Ministry), Baptist Campus Ministry, Hillel at Drexel and Newman Catholic Community by the Numbers:

- Total number of services, events or programs sponsored = 500
- Total University event/services with Ministers presence/participation = 8
- Total number of community service activities coordinated = 34
- Total number of students reached = 2863
- Total number of active participants = 240
- Total number of Recognized Spiritual/Religious Student Organizations = 16

In 2012-2013, Hillel at Drexel provided weekly opportunities for Shabbat dinner and worship, created opportunities to celebrate all Jewish holidays in the calendar year as well as provided weekly opportunities for Jewish learning and regular opportunities for building Jewish community, engaging in social justice work, connecting with and traveling to Israel, and participating in leadership development through regular board retreats, a student leadership shabbaton, national conferences and one on one student leadership supervision. Additionally, more than 100 students met individually with members of our staff team for pastoral support and/or Jewish enrichment and connection.

Over the course of this academic year, Newman Catholic Campus Ministry grew considerably. With their second retreat, they attracted 25 students, had 11 participate in Alternative Spring Break, and increased the number of small-group

gatherings. Newman focused on an area of concern, community service, and dedicated one student leadership position to coordinate the ministry's efforts. The ministry has strived to become more diversified by incorporating members from biology, engineering, and architecture into Newman programming. And, in an effort to offer greater leadership development to students, Newman offered a multi-day leadership retreat, as well as more consistent and intentional leadership training.

Asbury Ministry underwent a leadership transition mid-year, and also changed its name to Open Door Christian Community, to better reflect its identity as being an open, affirming community. Our purpose statement is: We gather together to be nurtured and challenged, discover what it means to follow Jesus, and engage our lives with God's empowering presence in the world. Open Door is rooted in the Mainline Christian tradition, and attracts a variety of students previously raised in the church and new to Christianity. Highlights from the year include weekly worship Tuesday nights and an Alternative Spring Break trip that focused on needs right here in Philadelphia.

On Thursday 10/11/12 students from Disciples InDeed (DID) spent the day inviting their peers into spiritual conversations using Soularium (50 quality pictures and 5 thought-provoking questions). Nine Drexel students engaged approximately 75 individuals over eight hours near the dragon statue. It helped the DID students to learn how to publically discuss their Christian beliefs in a non-threatening manner and gave other students the chance to consider the deep things about life in a way they had never before.

Students participating in Baptist Campus Ministries at Drexel University started off the academic year with a program in October facilitated by students from Disciples InDeed (DID) who spent the day inviting their peers into spiritual conversations using Soularium (50 quality pictures and 5 thought-provoking questions). Nine Drexel students engaged approximately 75 individuals over eight hours near the dragon statue. It helped the DID students to learn how to publically discuss their Christian beliefs in a non-threatening manner and gave other students the chance to consider the deep things about life in a way they had never before. In addition, Disciples InDeed (DID) hosted two movie nights in which we screened the Dark Knight Rises and Wreck-It Ralph. The thematic discussion following the movies led by our emcee, Darian Davis, a graduating senior in the animation program of the College of Arts and Design, gave him the opportunity to connect his Christian beliefs with his future profession. Both movie nights brought in over 40 students to the event. Disciples InDeed (DID) also hosted the 4th annual Food for the Soul during Black History Month with soul food provided by Chestnut Street Caterers, soul music by Leah Smith and a word for the soul from Rev. Stan Williams. This event was in partnership with Delta Sigma Theta, National Society of Black Engineers and the Blue Diamond Dragons. With over 100 persons in attendance this was by far our largest event of the year.